

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SE

Date: 6/20/13

Conservation Division
P. O. Box 26124
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

December 19, 1977

CERTIFIED—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Memorandum

To: Conservation Manager, Central Region, USGS

From: Area Mining Supervisor, SRMA, USGS

Subject: The Anaconda Company's Mining and Reclamation Plan for the P-15/17 Mine Project (Underground—Uranium), Pueblo of Laguna Uranium Lease No. 4, Laguna Indian Reservation, Valencia County, New Mexico

Two copies of the subject plan and corresponding environmental analysis (EA) are enclosed for your review and distribution. Also enclosed is a draft of a letter of approval for the subject plan. This letter incorporates, as conditions of approval, the recommendations from the EA (page 58) and the stipulations to the mining plan as agreed upon by the Pueblo of Laguna and The Anaconda Company (Appendix X of the EA).

Since the subject plan was submitted more than 1 year ago, we think that certain information pertaining to the plan and EA should be pointed out.

1. The subject mining and reclamation plan and EA have been reviewed extensively by the Pueblo of Laguna, USGS, BIA, and by a committee consisting of personnel from these parties and The Anaconda Company (see memorandums in Appendix XI of the EA). Both the plan and EA are considered to be satisfactory by the involved parties. The Pueblo of Laguna and BIA have approved the plan, and the BIA recommends that the USGS "take the necessary action to approve the plan also." (See Appendix X of the EA.)

2. The EA for the P-15/17 Project was completed prior to the October 31, 1977, issuance of the new Environmental Analysis Procedures and Guidelines (Instructional Memorandum No. 77-03-PR). However, we do not foresee any problems in this regard.

3. February 25, 1977, The Anaconda Company submitted a comprehensive mining and reclamation plan covering all of its open-pit and underground uranium mining operations on the Laguna Indian Reservation. Although various details of the P-15/17 Mine Project have been modified, the project is included in this comprehensive plan. An EA of the plan is being



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prepared by this office, and both the plan and EA will be reviewed in the same manner as those for the P-15/17 Project. We feel that any cumulative environmental effects of the mining operations can best be analyzed in the EA of the comprehensive plan, and the Pueblo of Laguna and BIA have generally agreed with this.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents, please contact this office. Mr. William Gray, Director--Environmental Affairs, The Anaconda Company, has also volunteered to answer any questions that may arise. His telephone number in Denver is 534-7555, Extension 263, and his address is 660 Bannock Street, Denver, Colorado 80204.

(ORIG. SGD.) DALE C. JONES

DALE C. JONES
Mining Engineer
For Area Mining Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: Files

DCJones:csj